

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
APRIL 18, 2023**

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL POLICY FOR SITING, DESIGN, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS AND CONDITIONAL WAIVER RENEWAL.

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will consider adoption of a proposed resolution and amendments to the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems and Conditional Waiver Renewal (OWTS Policy or Policy). State Water Board staff held a public workshop on Tuesday, October 4, 2022. The State Water Board held a public hearing on October 18, 2022, to present and receive oral public feedback on the proposed OWTS Policy amendments, conditional waiver renewal, and the California Environmental Quality Act addendum. The proposed OWTS Policy amendments, conditional waiver renewal, and the California Environmental Quality Act addendum documents were released on Friday, September 16, 2022, for a public comment period that closed on Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

The State Water Board adopted the OWTS Policy on June 19, 2012. The conditional waiver must be renewed every five years per Water Code §13269 and was last renewed April 2018. The purpose of the OWTS Policy is to allow for local agency oversight of over 1.2 million onsite wastewater treatment systems statewide through a conditional waiver of waste discharge requirements while maintaining minimum statewide water quality protections. The Policy addresses discharges less than 10,000 gallons per day of domestic wastewater to land, which may include incidental high-strength wastewater from commercial kitchens. Discharges not covered by this Policy include, but are not limited to, significant recreational vehicle domestic wastewater or industrial wastewater. The tiered regulatory approach of the Policy is implemented through a formalized relationship between the regional water quality control boards and local agencies.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board adopt the proposed resolution and OWTS Policy?

FISCAL IMPACT

No additional fiscal impact to currently budgeted program resources.

STATE AND REGIONAL BOARD IMPACTS

No dedicated staff positions have been allocated to implement the OWTS Policy. Therefore, existing state and regional board staff resources are used for implementation. Staff resources may be additionally impacted temporarily due to increased public and local agency engagement for this Policy renewal. Long term, the Policy results in reduced staff resources necessary to develop and implement individual or general waste discharge requirements for onsite wastewater treatment system discharges and is designed to reduced regional board staff workload by streamlining the technical support statewide for local agencies and impacted communities in comparison to site-specific requirements.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a proposed resolution and amendments to the Water Quality Control Policy for Siting, Design, Operation, and Maintenance of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems and Conditional Waiver Renewal.